

House Republican Caucus 2010

"Putting Families First"

Preamble

The government's role should be to promote, sustain and protect healthy families in a society where every person's welfare is of the utmost importance. Our state government has failed to fulfill to that role for many years. And today, the effects are more apparent than ever.

Unemployment has more than doubled over the last two years. Home foreclosures rise while the State budget shrinks. **But the government is so out of touch with our state of affairs and the needs of the people** that it refuses to change its spending habits. Instead of controlling spending, **it insists on collecting more taxes from our struggling families** and from the businesses that provide the jobs that those families rely on.

Their refusal to address the problem of poor governance has pervaded every area of life in Hawaii, affecting even our children through school furloughs. The furloughs are the result of the majority of our legislators continue to support special interest groups at the expense of what's best for every single one of our families. Therefore, it is time for the people of Hawaii to demand a change in their government.

The House Republican Caucus has a new scale of priorities for government spending that would put the greatest needs of the people of Hawaii above the needs of unions and other special interest groups. There was a time in our state's history when this party found itself in the very same position as the current majority. But history and experience has changed our party. We are now, more than ever, prepared to ensure that the State of Hawaii reaches its full potential for the benefit of its citizens. And we will continue to support Hawaii's families.

We pledge to protect every single aspect of family life, from the quality of education our keiki receive to the paycheck our hardworking parents bring home. Our families are the heart and soul of our state, and this government has ignored them for too long. It's time for a government that will start listening and addressing their needs.

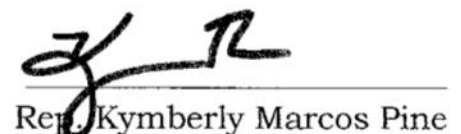
House Republican Caucus
January 20, 2010



Rep. Lynn Finnegan



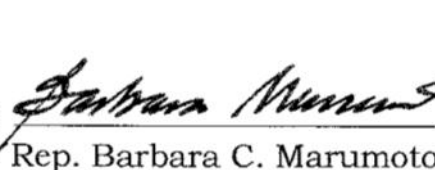
Rep. Cynthia Thielen



Rep. Kymberly Marcos Pine



Rep. Corinne W.L. Ching



Rep. Barbara C. Marumoto



Rep. Gene Ward

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Legislative Priorities for 2010

Hawaii's families are hurting like never before. Their children's education and their jobs are in serious jeopardy and deserve our undivided attention in 2010.

Priority #1: End School Furloughs

How:

1. Guarantee a minimum of 180 instructional days per year.
2. Place the Superintendent of schools within the Governor's cabinet.
3. Abolish the Board of Education to increase accountability and create a clearer chain of command.
4. Add a legal representative for students to the collective bargaining process.
5. Open the books and investigate inefficiencies in the Department of Education.

Priority #2: Create More Jobs

How:

1. Prevent more tax and cost of living increases on Hawaii's families.
2. Encourage sustainability and new jobs through private sector initiatives with tax credits for clean energy systems, electric cars, etc.
3. Keep small businesses alive and retain jobs by lowering unemployment insurance rates.
4. Streamline the permitting process to expedite shovel-ready projects and get workers off the bench.
5. Keep focused on job creation and expansion of our economy.

We pledge to take these actions for the education of our keiki and the development of our economy. We are committed to end school furloughs and create more jobs as our focus for the 2010 legislative session!

